

**4.2.23:** Let  $A \in M_{n \times n}(F)$  be an upper triangular matrix. We want to show that

$$\det(A) = \prod_{i=1}^n A_{ii}.$$

*Proof.* We proceed by induction on  $n$ .

For  $n = 1$ , obviously  $\det(A) = A_{11}$ .

Assume that the statement holds for  $n - 1$ .

Since  $A$  is an upper triangular matrix, we know that  $A_{ni} = 0$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$ .

Then Cofactor expansion along the  $n$ -th row of  $A$  gives

$$\det(A) = A_{nn} \det(\tilde{A}_{nn}).$$

Since  $\tilde{A}_{nn}$  is the matrix obtained from  $A$  by deleting the  $n$ -th row and the  $n$ -th column, and hence is a  $(n - 1) \times (n - 1)$  matrix.

By induction hypothesis,

$$\det(\tilde{A}_{nn}) = \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} A_{ii}.$$

Therefore

$$\det(A) = A_{nn} \det(\tilde{A}_{nn}) = \prod_{i=1}^n A_{ii}.$$

□